

PRESS RELEASE

December 6, 2006

RE: UNITED STATES v. NOEL HEATH

United States Attorney Terrance P. Flynn announced today that Noel Heath, who was extradited earlier this year from the country of St. Kitts and Nevis, pled guilty in federal court today to conspiracy to violate the federal narcotics laws, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846. The charges stemmed from Heath's involvement in a 1992 conspiracy to import cocaine into the United States and to further distribute that cocaine in the Western District of New York.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas E. Gregory stated that the Superseding Indictment charged that in the months of June and July, 1992, the defendant, a native of St. Kitts and Nevis, agreed to supply persons residing in Rochester, New York, with cocaine that he knew would be distributed here. During the course of the 1992 investigation, law enforcement officials received information via telephone wiretap that cocaine might be en route from New York City to Rochester, New York. Officials subsequently stopped a tractor trailer being operated by two accomplices on the New York State thruway. Pursuant to a search of that truck, officials seized approximately 13 kilograms of cocaine concealed within the tractor

trailer. After the seizure, officials intercepted and recorded several additional incriminating phone calls between a co-conspirator here in Rochester and Noel Heath on the island of St. Kitts and Nevis, wherein the seizure of the 13 kilograms is clearly discussed.

In his plea before the Hon. David G. Larimer, United States District Court Judge, Heath admitted that he personally arranged for the shipment of the 13 kilograms of cocaine from St. Thomas to New York City, sending the cocaine on a commercial airline to New York City. Heath admitted that he was aware that the final destination for the cocaine was Rochester, New York, where it was to be further distributed.

The 1995 Indictment was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of David T. Zon, and the Rochester Police Department.